

CITY OF ROCKVILLE
Department of Recreation and Parks

ADULT SPRING/SUMMER SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL
LEAGUE RULES - 2012

I. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A. Players need not live or work in the tax limits of the City of Rockville.
- B. Teams and players will be permitted to play in other jurisdictions, such as Montgomery County, etc. **Players must be out of high school.**

II. ROSTERS

- A. It is the Manager's/Coach's responsibility to make sure that the PRELIMINARY roster has been received in the Sports Office prior to the first league game.
- B. Rosters are to be submitted on the official roster form. Each player's name, home address, emergency contact information, and signature should appear on the form.
- C. Each team shall be limited to 24 players at any one time.
- D. The team manager shall submit to the department before a designated date as determined by the Sports Office, a FINAL roster of all the players on his/her team. No players may be added after this date for league play.
- E. A player must be officially released in writing before he/she may play with another team. No transfers after final rosters.
- F. In the adult softball program individual players may not participate on more than one team within the same weeknight.

Men's City Championships – Players participating on multiple teams in the same division classification must select one roster for play-offs and remain with elected team throughout the play-offs. [No Exceptions]

A player may be on only one roster in the Co-Rec League. However, men can participate in the Co-Rec League, in addition to Men's League.

PENALTIES FOR THE ABOVE: A player in violation of this league rule is an ineligible player, and both teams he/she is playing for are subject to forfeiting each and every game in which he/she participates. Coaches are responsible for the absolute validity of the team rosters submitted to the Sports Office. The use of an ineligible ballplayer will result in the coach, whose name appears on the roster, being suspended for a minimum of two games, in addition to other penalties. Check with each of your players and advise them of the league rule. Any player in violation must decide which specific team they are going to permanently roster.

III. PLAYING RULES

- A. Unless modified by this set of rules, all games of the league shall be played in accordance with the current slow pitch rules adopted by the Amateur Softball Association (ASA).
- B. The number of players to start and continue a game shall be as follows: **All league games may start and/or be played with a minimum of 8 players**, only if the ninth and tenth eligible player(s) are not available. If a ninth and tenth player(s) arrive after the start of a game, he/she bats in the ninth and tenth position. If a game is started with 9, 10, 11, or 12 players, it must end with the same number of players, provided substitutes are available. However, teams will not be penalized with recorded outs for a missing player(s) [i.e. hurt, ejected, etc.]
- C. **Additional Hitter(s) Rule** (optional in ALL Leagues) Teams have the option at the start of the game to bat 12 players, but defensively play 10. A team may insert an additional hitter(s) into its line-up at the start of a game only. The batting order must remain constant, however, any 10 of the 12 players can take defensive positions throughout the game. All 12 players shall be subject to the re-entry rule.
- D. Courtesy Runners (two cases): **[MODIFIED]**
 - 1) Intended for individuals who have physical/health related issues. Persons desiring such **CR** status are to obtain pre-approval from the appropriate Sports Programs Supervisor. This request should be in the form of an email and include the name of the player(s) and the specific health issue(s). Upon receipt of approval the returned email should be brought to the field to show/present to the umpire/other coach to receive approval from both – no email presented during/at the time of 'ground rules', **NO** CR for those games. Team/manager will be required to email for approval to each/every game for a CR. The issuance of a 'blanket' CR for the season may be considered with proper approval.

- 2) Players who actually sustain a serious/aggravated injury during a game, however, not significant enough for game removal, but necessitate a runner if he/she reaches base. Unlimited CR's are allowed each inning. The CR at the first dead ball may replace any batter/base runner on a base after they reach base. **The CR is defined as "the last player who made an out";** (Co-Rec)"the last player who made an out of the same sex". If it should happen in the first inning and no one has been retired or scored, it will be filled by the last spot in the batting order.

E. **Rule 6 – Pitching Regulation (Slow Pitch)**

City of Rockville – The ball must be delivered with a perceptible arc and reach a height of at least 6 feet from the ground while not exceeding a height of 12 feet from the ground.

(Safety) – An imaginary line from the front edge of each side of the pitching rubber will be drawn back (6) six feet to form a rectangular box. Since the pitching rubber is (50) fifty feet from the home plate, the imaginary box will extend back to (56) fifty-six feet, and the pitcher will be allowed to pitch anywhere inside of that box. The pitcher must have one foot touching the box to begin pitching. All other rules regarding pitching will still be in force.

F. **Foul Ball/Foul Tip** [Slow Pitch Without Stealing]– **[MODIFIED]**

Foul ball - A batter is out when the catcher catches a foul ball and the ball had a perceptible arc. Foul tip – the ball is dead and the batter is out if it is the third strike. If it happens and it is only the second strike, then the batter is not out. **[Rule prior to 2006 ASA change]**

G. Rule 8. Sec. 4G – Stealing (Men's Slow Pitch)

(This rule does not apply to any of the men's, women's or co-rec softball leagues.

H. **Run Ahead Rule** - Any team leading by 20 after three innings, 15 after four innings, or 10 after five innings (respectively 2 ½, 3 ½, and 4 ½, if the home team is ahead) or any complete inning thereafter will be declared the winner and the game will be complete.

- I. **Home Run Rules** (an untouched fair ball over the fence) **One-Up** in affect for all leagues
1. Men's 'C/D' – (4) home runs with one-up after fourth (4th) home run.
 2. Men's 'D' – (3) home runs with one-up after third (3rd) home run.
 3. Co-Rec - (3) home runs with one-up after third (3rd) home run.

One-Up Rule: Once both teams reach their home run limits, the teams are allowed one additional home run. As long as both teams keep matching the limit or equal number of home runs, teams may continue to hit additional home run(s). If one team reaches the limit and goes over the limit before the other team reaches their limit, the home runs become an out. The one-up rule is in affect for all innings.

Teams are responsible for retrieving or providing back-up balls, as specified in these rules, for home runs hit over the fence. If a player hits an **over the limit**, successive untouched ball over the fence, the batter will be ruled out.

- J. Base awards must be touched in legal order.
Exception: Over the fence 'home run'. On any fair-batted ball hit over the fence for a home run, or a four base award, the batter and any runners are credited with a score. The batter and any runners can go directly to the dugout. This would eliminate any runner appeal play.
- K. **30-Foot Runner's Lanes (Fields applicable) –**
Batter-Runner is out when he/she runs outside the three-foot lane and, in the judgment of the umpire, interferes with the fielder taking the throw at first base; however, the batter-runner may run outside the three-foot lane to avoid a fielder attempting to field a batted ball. When the defensive player uses the colored portion of the double base, the batter-runner can run in fair territory when the throw is coming from the foul side of first base, and if hit by the thrown ball, it is not interference. If intentional interference is ruled, the runner is out.
- L. A runner shall be declared out when a defensive player has the ball and the runner remains on his or her feet and initiates contact with the defensive player. The runner shall be ejected from the game (if, in the judgment of the umpire, the contact is flagrant).

- M. A runner shall be declared safe (obstruction shall be called) when a defensive player initiates contact by blocking a base or home plate and the defensive player does not possess the ball. A defensive player must grant unimpeded access to a base when he is not in possession of the ball or in the act of fielding a batted ball.
- N. A player shall be officially in the game when his/her name has been entered on the Official Score Sheet (home team is official) or has been announced. When preparing the team's batting order for the game, and prior to exchanging line-ups with the opposition, you must use the following format for listing player's names. Always first initial and last name in full. When more than 1 player has the same last name, please list full first and last name of these players.

IV. CO-REC PLAYING RULE EXCEPTIONS

- A. A team shall consist of 5 men and 5 women and 5 of each sex on the field. If a team is playing with (8) players, there must be 4 of each sex on the field; (9) players, there must be 5 of one sex and 4 of the other sex on the field.
- B. **Additional Hitter(s) Rule** (optional in the Co-Rec Leagues)
A team may insert 2 additional hitters, one of each sex, into its line-up at the start of a game only. The batting order must remain constant; however, any 10 (5 male and 5 female) of the 12 players can take a defensive position throughout the game. If the game is started with 12 players, it must end with 12 players if substitutes are available. All 12 players shall be subject to the re-entry rule.

When using the 12 player line up in the Co-Rec league. If a player is either ejected or leaves the game with an injury and there is no substitutes available the batter in the previous batting order must drop out of the line up but may return as a substitute (following the substitution rule) later in the game. **Example:** If batter 10 gets hurt batter 9 drops out of the line up but may return as a substitute later in the game.
- C. In all Co-Rec divisions, the men shall hit 12-inch circumference softball and the women shall hit 11-inch circumference softball.
 - 1. The home team will provide one "new" 12-inch ball and one "new" 11-inch ball.

2. The offensive team **MUST** provide a first base coach. The first base coach will be responsible for giving the defensive pitcher the proper size ball for the batter. For example, if a team has a male batter, the first base coach will provide the 12-inch ball to the pitcher. As soon as the play has ended and the umpire calls time out, the 12-inch ball would then be replaced with the 11-inch ball for the female batter by exchanging balls between the first base coach and pitcher.
3. If a ball is hit out of play and cannot be recovered quickly, the team that is at bat must furnish as many additional league-specified balls as needed to complete their turn at bat.
4. If the incorrect ball is pitched to a batter the following enforcements will apply.

Female batter pitched the 12-inch ball:

- a. If the wrong ball is used, the manager of the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or having the last batter rebat and assume the ball and strike count prior to the wrong ball being discovered.

Male batter pitched the 11-inch ball:

- a. batter-runner safely reaches first base or beyond, the play will stand.
- b. batter-runner fails to safely reach first base as the result of a fly out, ground out, foul out, etc., the play will stand; no replays will be granted.

Male or female batters:

- a. Upon the discovery that an incorrect ball has been used, the umpire shall rectify the situation by placing the appropriate ball in play; the count from the previous pitch is official regardless of whether the batter was a male or female.

Example: Female batter

- ☐ First pitch is a strike,
- ☐ Catcher discovers that a 12-inch ball was pitched,
- ☐ Umpire replaces the 12-inch ball with the proper ball prior to the next pitch,
- ☐ The count reflects the prior pitch, which should indicate 1 ball, 2 strikes.

- D. The offensive line-up may begin with either a man or woman; the order for men and women shall rotate thereafter. EXCEPTION: If a team is playing with 9 players, the offensive line-up must begin with the sex having 5 players, and there will be a repetition of sex in the line-up.
- E. Positions in the field may be distributed, as the coach/captain desires. While positions in the field may be changed at any time, the male/female order of the starting line-up must be maintained.
- F. Men shall assume the batting stance opposite to that which they would normally use in a softball game. **Opposite-handed means:** If the individual fields with the glove on the left hand and throws right-handed normally, he is supposed to bat left-handed and vice-versa. If the opposing manager feels that any male is not batting opposite handed or on their weaker side as required, he may require the batter to switch his batting stance anytime. The manager can reverse this decision anytime during the game and once the decision is reversed, it will be final.

Example: If a left-handed male batter hits a home run right-handed, the next time at the opposing manager requests that he bat left-handed. Left-handed, he bats another home run. The opposing manager has one last chance at his next at-bat to decide with which hand the batter shall bat. At this point, the decision is final.

- G. **Walk Rule:** The following walk rule will be used in all divisions: When a male batter is walked intentionally or unintentionally, the male batter is awarded first and second base and the following female batter must bat. **Exception: With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat.**

V. ONE AND ONE COUNT

- A. In all leagues, when a batter enters the batter's box, he/she will have the count of **one ball and one strike**. After the batter has reached two strikes, he/she will be declared out when he/she hits a second foul ball. (If the foul fly ball is caught, runners may tag and advance at their own risk.)
- B. **Time Limit:** There will be a 65-minute time limit for all games. The time limit begins with the first pitch. **No new inning may begin after the time limit has been reached.** An inning that has begun will be completed unless the lights curfew comes into affect; at that point the game will end with the team ahead declared the winner. **For**

time limit purposes, the new inning begins when the 3rd out occurs.

C. Tie Games and Management: [MODIFIED]

Any regular season game, which ends in a 'tie' after 7 full innings has been reached, even if there is time remaining [in the standard 65-minute time limit] will be considered a 'complete game', and each team will receive 1 point in the standings. **No extra inning(s) are to be played.**

The only time 'extra innings' are employed will be in the post-season play-off games [Qualifiers, and City Championships], in which a 1-pitch format will be instituted until a winner is determined. **Exception:** The '**Finals**', and '**IF Necessary**' game(s) of the City Championships, if tied after 7 innings are continued, but with the regular 1 and 1 count (not 1-pitch).

The following policies and procedures pertain specifically to Broome Park and Mark Twain School Athletic Park.

No new inning shall start after 10:30 p.m. and there is an **absolute** curfew of 10:45 p.m. **All play stops at this time.** If a game is stopped due to the curfew or darkness in the middle of an inning, the game reverts back to the last full complete inning.

- D. ASA Guidelines for Lightening Safety** (pgs. 178-79 of ASA 2011 Part. Manual) Most important – "If activity has been suspended due to lightening, the umpire should wait at least 30 minutes after the last lightening flash or sound of thunder prior to resuming activity. Each time additional lightening is observed or thunder is heard; the minimum 30-minute waiting period should be reset. A clear sky or lack of rainfall is a not adequate indicator for resuming play. The minimum 30-minute return-to-play waiting period should not be shortened. Play should not be resumed even after the 30 minute waiting period if any signs of thunderstorm activity remain in the area or if the weather forecast indicates the threat is not over".

- E.** There will be a 10-minute grace period for all 6 p.m. 6:10 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. weekday games. However, the official will start the time limit clock at the scheduled game time. Example, for games scheduled to start at 6 p.m. the time limit rule will be 7:05 p.m. If part of the 65-minute game time is lost due to weather (rain, lightning and/or thunder), maintenance issues, or an injury to a player, any "lost time" counts towards the official 65-minute game time limit, just as the 10-minute grace period does for games that are scheduled to start at 6:00 PM.

For example: If a game is stopped due to weather and at least 30 minutes of playing time remain the game should be continued from the point stopped. If less than 30 minutes remains the game should be postponed and continued from the point of interruption at a later date.

Forfeited Game: A team forfeits a game when it fails to have the minimum number of players to start a game or maintain the minimum number of eligible players to continue playing. Teams participating in 'Doubleheaders' will forfeit each game separately. Teams that forfeit the first game of the doubleheader due to insufficient number of payers, must begin the second game of the 'Doubleheader' as soon as they have the minimum number of eligible players present, but no later than the scheduled starting time for the second game.

VI. HOW TO PROTEST

- A. All protests pertaining to the playing of a game shall be submitted to the umpire and the opposing manager at the time of the alleged infraction and prior to the next pitch.
- B. **Failure to present league rules to an umpire at the time of misapplication of that rule will result in a no-protest decision.**
This is the Manager's/Coach's responsibility.
- C. Protests shall be submitted in writing with a \$50 protest fee and must be in the possession of the Sports Programs Supervisor or postmarked within 48 hours after game time. If the protest is denied, the fee shall be deposited in the general fund. If the protest is upheld, the fee shall be returned.
- D. **Player Photo Identification** – At all times, players must be prepared to show positive proof of identification (Drivers License) upon request/challenge. **All protests on player ineligibility must be addressed at the exchange of the line up or when the player is first introduced into the game.** Protests as to the use of an ineligible player must be registered with the Sports Programs Supervisor by the close of the next business day; no protest fee is required and the protest must be submitted in writing. Name(s) and other personal data of the alleged offenders must be included in the written protest that is filed.

Men's Post Season City Championships Only – Each team player/member participating in the tournament must show positive proof of identification (**Drivers License**) before each scheduled game **No Exception!!!** Rosters will be checked and verified by the

Tournament Supervisor(s). **No Photo ID equates to no participation in the game!**

- E. Any team using an ineligible player shall automatically forfeit each game in which the player participated. If a team knowingly uses a player under an assumed name, that team shall automatically be dropped from the league or tournament. Each game played with that player and all scheduled games not played shall be forfeited to the opponents.

VII. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The City of Rockville Adult Slow Pitch Softball league is intended as a recreational activity. It is expected that all participants conduct themselves in keeping with the highest standards of sportsmanship. Unbecoming conduct will not be tolerated. Unsportsmanlike conduct includes, but is not limited to such things as: assault, verbal abuse, threats, or physical violence against other participants, umpires, managers, staff, etc. Inappropriate language for a recreational environment, excessive arguing with the umpire, and dangerous acts, i.e. throwing a bat.

- A. **Technical Out:** As a sanction against those teams or individuals whose behavior is unacceptable, but the **Umpire** judges that ejection is too severe a penalty, the **Umpire** may invoke a **Technical Out** against the offending team.

*Example: **Technical Out** assessed by the **Umpire** for a player's foul language in lieu of players disqualification and removal from the park premises.*

1. **Offense:** If the team at bat is guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct the **Umpire** may enforce an out against them. If this is the first or second out of the inning, the game continues with the batter and base runners being unaffected; an additional out is simply added to the team's total. If the **Technical Out** is the third of the inning, the next inning will resume with the batter who would have batted had the out not been called. In this case the batter will begin with a fresh one-and-one count.
2. **Defense:** If the team in the field is guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct, the **Umpire** may invoke the **Technical Out** by reducing by one the number of outs that the defense will have when they come to bat.

3. Two consecutive **Technical Outs** may not be assessed against the same team. At least one pitch (legal or illegal) must intervene. **An ejection for any unsportsmanlike behavior must be accompanied by charging of an out against the offending team.**

- B. The team manager/coach is responsible for the conduct of his/her team and team followers.

Note: Upon request, the manager/coach is responsible for furnishing the name(s) of disqualified player(s) to the umpire. Failure to cooperate will result in automatic team forfeiture, and suspension of the team manager.

- C. A player, manager, or coach who is ejected before, during, or after a game shall be suspended from league play for at least one game (the second game of a 'Doubleheader' is defined as one game), and depending on the severity of the incident, may be suspended an additional game(s) by the Sport Programs Supervisor. If incidents are determined severe the offender(s) will be required to attend a hearing to determine appropriate disciplinary action. In these circumstances, a Board of Conduct Review will be appointed for purposes of conducting the hearing and determining appropriate disciplinary action.

An ejected player has three minutes to leave the park premises. If the player fails to do so, the offending team will forfeit the game. While a manager, coach or player is serving out their game(s) suspension, he/she may not attend future game(s) until such time the suspension is fulfilled; under penalty of forfeiture, and further punitive action to participant and team. Likewise, further ejections by the same player during the current season shall be dealt with more severely, including but not limited to, suspension from the program for the remainder of the season.

- D. All program participants agree not to post, email, or otherwise send any of the following items against the League, the Sports Officials or the coaches in the League.
 - a) Anything that is unlawful, harmful, threatening, abusive, harassing, defamatory, libelous, or invasive of another's privacy:
 - b) Anything that harasses, degrades, intimidates or is hateful toward an individual or team on the basis of religion, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, age, or disability:

Violations of this rule will make you subject to suspension from the league.

- E. Before, during, and after the game, anyone who strikes, shoves, pushes, bumps, or otherwise physically threatens an umpire or Recreation & Parks staff shall be suspended from all department-sponsored activities for at least one year from the date of the incident.
- F. Any player, manager, or coach who approaches an official in a negative manner after the conclusion of a league game, including parking lot, will be suspended for at least one (1) game.
- G. Any team or player(s) who violate any of the City of Rockville regulations, especially the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages on park property, shall be subject to disciplinary action to be taken by the Sports Programs Supervisor.

If a cooler is brought to the playing field, and it is reasonably suspected to contain beer, etc, it may be inspected by the umpire or field supervisor. Failure to comply with the request will result in owner of cooler being asked to leave the premises.

VIII. PLAYOFFS

- A. Teams qualifying for the playoffs shall be as follows:
 - Men's Leagues - Format to be announced
 - Co-Rec Reverse/Regular Division - Format to be announced

- B. A tie in league standings will be resolved as follows:

Tie Breaker:

Head-to-head competition

Net run differential (fewest runs allowed)

Play-off game

For purposes of league standings, teams shall receive 2 points for a win, one point for a tie, 0 points for a loss, and (-1) point for each forfeit.

IX. GAME POSTPONEMENT AND RESCHEDULING PROCEDURES

- A. **Inclement Weather Information Line:** If games are canceled, a tape-recorded message will provide this information as early as 3 p.m. on (240) 314-5055 for Monday-Friday evening games. You are urged not to call before this time, as information may not be available. In the case of weekend day games, cancellation decisions will be made as

soon as the fields are checked and/or enough information is collected to make the decision. In all cases, every attempt will be made to make the decision in time to allow for adequate communication within team channels. It should be noted that weather conditions can vary from park to park, and cancellations in one park do not necessarily mean cancellations in another park.

- B. In the event team opponents and/or staff are not present at your scheduled game time, please call the number for "Inclement Weather Information Line" at **240-314-5055**. This tape-recorded message is periodically updated to provide you the latest status on games.
- C. The Sports Office will be responsible for all cancellation decisions. **PLEASE DO NOT CHALLENGE THE STAFF OVER CANCELED GAMES.** In the event of inclement weather after 4 p.m., where no previous announcement has been made regarding playing conditions of fields, it shall be the sole responsibility of the umpire and/or staff representative to determine field play ability. Both teams should report to the playing field.
- D. In the event an umpire and/or staff representative decides to cancel the first ball game or doubleheader at a specific ball field due to weather related conditions, **all remaining scheduled games thereafter may be played or canceled; provided weather conditions have improved and fields are determined safe to play.**

Games that are not considered regulation shall be resumed as follows:

 - Regular Season: At the exact point where game was stopped.
 - Play Offs: At the exact point where game was stopped.
- E. The Sports Office will reschedule all games determined incomplete or postponed. This rescheduling action will follow (1) make-up days on player schedules, if applicable; or (2) weekends (Sundays). Notification of rescheduled ball games will be forwarded via mail (memo) generally 7-10 days before scheduled contest.

X. CALLING IN SCORES

- A. Each division will have a **"Representative"** who is responsible for recording all scores of league games played by teams in his/her respective division.
- B. The winning team shall be responsible for notifying the division representative of the score by the next business day following the

game. Tie games are to be reported by the home team. The winning team of the second game should report doubleheaders, where there is a split.

- C. The division representative of all leagues shall call in all scores to the Sports Office within two business days following the game.
- D. For purposes of league standings, teams shall receive (2) points for a win, (1) point for a tie, (0) points for a loss, and (-1) point for each forfeit.
- E. To check standings online, go to www.rockvillemd.gov and choose a Department, "Recreation and Parks", followed by "Team Sports."

XI. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Awards shall be as follows:
 - 1. Men's Post-Season Championship Tournaments - Team Trophies
Division Champions – 'Gift Certificate' - team party at a local establishment
 - 2. Co-Rec Post-Season Championship Tourney – Team Trophies
Division Champions – 'Gift Certificate' – team party at a local establishment
- B. Any player who violates the City of Rockville ordinance regarding the Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages on park property shall be subject to the penalties provided by law. (Rockville Code, Section 14-36): ***If a cooler is brought to the playing field, and it is reasonably suspected to contain beer, etc, it may be inspected by the umpire or field supervisor. Failure to comply with the request will result in owner of cooler being asked to leave the premises.***
- C. Smoking on the playing field, including the dugouts, is prohibited. **The City of Rockville is a tobacco free sports environment.**
- D. **"No Parking" zones on residential streets and parks** will be enforced throughout the playing season. Please observe "No Parking" signs by parking in legal zones only. Please communicate this to all your players and team followers.

Parking is not allowed for softball participants behind Broome Park; players will be directed by staff to relocate their vehicles.
- E. Players, managers, coaches, and team followers are encouraged to **not to bring their dogs, including leased dogs, to the parks and ball fields during games.** Your cooperation is appreciated.

- F. **Uniforms: (Optional in league play)** For purposes of consistency, teams opting to use uniforms should have all players wear the same color shirt. Any teams participating/qualifying for ASA/USSSA tournament play will be required to follow tournament uniform rules.
- G. **Equipment:** The official game ball for all Men's, Co-Rec Leagues will be furnished by the Recreation Department and to all teams. The official ball for the league play will be as follows:

Men's (TRUMP) - .52 COR/275 Compression, Leather, Yellow Cover.

Women's (Dudley) - WT-11 RF 80 ASA, .44 COR/375 Compression, Leather, Yellow Cover.

No other softballs are acceptable other these specified compression balls. The Home Team shall furnish 2 new balls to start the game. If additional balls are needed, the team at bat shall furnish as many additional playable balls as needed to complete the game. The 2 new balls, 1 each, should be introduced at the top half and bottom half of the first inning. The balance of the game should always be played with the best ball as judged by the Umpire.

- F. **BATS: Men's Leagues; men participating in Co Rec. Divisions**
See the **ASA approved list of 2012 banned bats**, which are on the last page of these League Rules [follows page 21 of this document].

Bats: Women's Leagues; Women in Co Rec. Divisions
The Department will use the ASA rule. [Managers please note].

To check out the status (specifications) of latest bats being introduced on the market, visit: www.asasoftball.com Links, 'Certified Equipment', Bats – "2004 & Beyond Non Approved Bats, with Certification Marks"

1. Must bear either the ASA approved 2000 certification mark or the **ASA 2004 Certification mark** as shown below, and must not be listed on an ASA non approved bat list, or



2. Must be included on a list of approved bat models published by the ASA; or

3. Must, in the sole opinion and discretion of the umpire, have been manufactured prior to 2000 and, if tested, would comply with the ASA bat performance standards then in effect.

Beginning January 1, 2004, all bats must pass the ASA bat standard. All bats having the 2004-certification mark will be allowed. Bats that have the 2000 certification mark will not be allowed unless they are listed on an approved bat list on the ASA website. For convenience, the ASA website has a listing of bats that do not pass the ASA 2004 bat standard.

ASA Rule 3 Section 1E Taper; 1 F Barrel, and 1 G End Cap

- G. **Barrel End: The bat barrel shall be free of audible rattles when shaken. The bat barrel shall not have signs of excessive wear.**

The umpire's will permit corrective action by the teams to make questionable equipment playable. The purpose of these inspections is to identify illegal or non-approved equipment.

Illegal or non-approved equipment should be confiscated by the umpire and/or field supervisor (where applicable) at the time it is identified, marked with the owner's information, turned over to, and held by the office of the City's Sports Division, until such a time, the equipment has been evaluated and determined as approved or non-approved.

- H. **Bat Warmers Sleeves** – The ASA National Office now approves warming sleeves on bats.
- I. The home team shall provide one set of substantially constructed softball bases for each weekday home game in the absence of bases furnished by the Department. There shall be at least one strap and one spike per base. Failure of the home team to provide bases if other arrangements cannot be made will result in forfeiture of that game.
- J. If no official umpire arrives for a game, the teams' managers should meet and confer and decide upon one of the three options listed below. The option chosen should be exercised 10 minutes after the starting time of the game. If the umpire arrives during the 10 minute waiting period, the game is begun immediately with the home team taking the field. The three courses of action available to the teams are:
1. To choose not to play the game without an official umpire; rescheduling is then handled by the Sports Office.

2. Agree to begin the game with a volunteer umpire. If the game is started with a volunteer umpire, it must be completed. Both managers are required to sign the official scorebook, and contact the Recreation Department, as proof of agreement. Payment to volunteers or unauthorized umpires is at the risk of the teams and the City of Rockville will not reimburse such payment.
 3. To decide to wait for the official umpire to arrive. If either #1 or #2 is chosen, the game is to begin no later than **15 minutes** after the scheduled starting time. (That means 7:15 p.m. for a 7 p.m. game, etc.) If the teams have opted for #2 and the umpire arrives subsequently, the game will continue with the official umpire resuming his duties. If the teams had opted for #3, then they could choose either to begin or not begin the game upon the arrival of the umpire. Both teams would have to agree to start or no game would be played.
- K. The franchise fee shall cover all umpire fees for league and playoff games, trophies, lights, field maintenance, and other expenses, which the league may incur.
- L. After the first inning, pitchers will be restricted to one warm-up pitch and there should be no infield/outfield ball.
- M. Blood Rule, Rule 4, and Section 9 - Amateur Softball Association Playing Rules

A player, coach, or umpire who is bleeding or who has blood on his/her uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. If medical care or treatment is administered in a reasonable length of time, the individual will not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is left to the umpire's judgment. Uniform rule violations will not be enforced if a uniform change is required. The umpire shall:

- A. Stop the game and immediately call a coach, trainer or other authorized person to the injured player and allow treatment.
- B. Apply the rules of the game regarding substitution, short-handed player, and re-entry if necessary.

N. Injured Player -

During a live ball situation, when a player becomes injured, and in the umpire's judgment requires immediate attention, the umpire shall call **"DEAD BALL"** and allow or seek first aid. **EFFECT:** Award any bases that would have been reached.

XII. MAINSTREAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Individuals with handicapping conditions are encouraged to register and take part in City of Rockville Recreation Department programs. In order to facilitate participation, the department will attempt to make appropriate special accommodations. Anyone interested in learning about access to Recreation Department programs and facilities may call 240-314-8620 to speak with the Sports Programs Supervisor. Arrangements must be made with the department each season. This policy does not apply to injured players.

XIII. The League mandates that each team obtain a First-Aid Kit as well as Ice Packs. Emergency numbers will be included in each first aid kit as well as directions to local hospitals. See **Attachment A**

ATTACHMENT A

First-Aid Kits and Ice Packs

The City of Rockville mandates that each team obtain a First-Aid Kit as well as Ice Packs. Emergency numbers will be included in each first-aid kit as well as directions to local hospitals. It is the responsibility of the coaching staff or the Team Safety Representative to make sure that each kit is stocked at all times and is brought to every practice or game.

Medicine, Antiseptics -

2 Ibuprofen tablets

2 Aspirin tablets

2 Extra-Strength non-aspirin tablets

6 Antiseptic cleansing wipes - sting free

Alcohol cleansing pads

Castile soap towelettes

2 Insect sting relief pads

2 Antibiotic ointment packs

Bandages -

- 16 - 3/4 x 3-inch Adhesive plastic bandages
- 10 - 3/8 x 1-1/2-inch Junior adhesive plastic bandages
- 2 Knuckle fabric bandages
- 2 Fingertip fabric bandages
- 2 - 2 x 4-inch Elbow & Knee plastic bandages

Dressings & Injury Treatment -

- 1 - 5 x 9-inch Trauma pad
- 1 Sterile eye pad
- 2 - 2 x 2-inch Gauze dressing pads
- 2 - 3 x 3-inch Gauze dressing pads
- 1 - 2-inch Conforming gauze roll bandage
- 2 Butterfly wound closures
- 1 - 2 x 2-inch Moleskin square
- 1 - 1/2 x 5 yd First aid tape roll
- 1 - 6-x 3/4-inch Finger splint

References, Instruments -

- 1 Softpack bag
- 1 First Aid guide
- 1 Scissors

Inclement Weather:

In case of inclement weather such as heavy rain or lightning the game must be cancelled. If there is lightening in the area the National Lightning Safety Institute (NLSI) guidelines state that for each five seconds counted, lightning is one mile away.

- 5 seconds = 1 mile
- 10 seconds = 2 miles
- 15 seconds = 3 miles

NLSI recommends removing all players and spectators from the field no later than a 15 second count. Remind players not to touch anything metal such as fencing or bats and do not stand under any trees or stay in the open field. If an individual is struck by lightning they do not hold an electrical charge and you may touch them immediately to start giving CPR.

If it is only drizzling and the water is not creating mud puddles or a dangerous outfield then play may continue.

Hot Weather:

On days when the temperature is very hot is important to make sure the players bring and drink plenty of water or sports drinks. Research has found sports drinks containing between 6-8% carbohydrates (sugars) are absorbed into the body as rapidly as water and can provide energy to working muscles that water cannot.

Each team should have a cooler with wet wash clothes on ice as well as a spray bottle. It should be determined between both teams and with the umpire before the game starts how long of a break to give the players and at what time during the game they will stop to rest and re-hydrate.

It should also be suggested that the players use a sunscreen.

XIV. WAIVER OF LIABILITY

The City of Rockville assumes no liability for injury or damage arising from participation in the adult softball program. **We strongly urge** that each team in the league have insurance to cover each player appearing on the roster for every game, practice game, and travel to and from each league game and practice game, or each player be covered by personal health insurance.

Each team is to complete and submit to the Sports Division by a designated date a team roster titled **Player Roster, Agreement and Release**. On the front of this roster player signatures are required. A player's signature indicates that the player has read and understands the terms of the "Agreement" and "Release," articulated on the backside of the roster.



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Bats for 2012 Softball Tournament

This is to inform all teams that the following lists of bats are the **only** bats that are **BANNED** for use during the 2012 Local Softball tournaments sponsored by MDDCASA. **If you advance further to ASA Championship the ASA bat rule will be in effect.** Any question regarding this please contact the commissioner via email at: commissioner@mddcasa.org

BANNED FROM TOURNAMENT ARE THE FOLLOWING:

No Titanium bat period	No Boombah cannon
No Miken ultra (gray)	No Rip-it senior (yellow)
No Miken ultra II (black)	No Jak'ed nemesis
No Miken ultra legacy (black and grey)	No combat senior gear yellow/white
No Demarini geezer	No Worth Toxic XXX (added 12/2009)
No Worth launch 510	No Combat Sr. - Gear - MM (added 12/2009)
No Combat original dabomb (silver/gray)	Reebok melee legend (added 1/4/2011)
No Combat original dabomb (silver/red)	No Combat Sr. - Centurian (added 4/11/2011)

These are the only bats that are banned.

These are the bats that are banned as long as we are using the 52 core 275/300 compression ball.

If the 44 core 375 compression ball is used the ASA bats list is in effect.